

Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*).— On March 25, 1911, while on Protection Island, Straits of Juan de Fuca, I picked up a dead bird of this species that had been shot by some gunner. It had not been killed more than a few days and was apparently an adult male in the light phase of plumage but was too much decomposed to prepare.— S. F. RATHBUN, *Seattle, Wash.*

Buteo platypterus Eating Minnows.—The intense and prolonged dry spell has dried, among others, the creek Rio Seco on the San Carlos estate; water being found only in two or three shallow puddles 6 or 8 feet long by half as broad and 4 inches deep, at deepest. These puddles were alive with small minnows known locally as "Guayacones."

On April 9, 1911, I shot from a tree near one of these puddles a female Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). Upon examining her crop I was surprised to find 16 whole minnows from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, which she had just eaten. Unfortunately I did not witness the fishing process.— CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

The Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) **Breeding on the Coast of South Carolina.**— On May 10, 1911, while in company with Mr. J. H. Riley, who had come to South Carolina with Dr. Edgar A. Mearns and Mr. Edward J. Brown to collect topotypes of birds for the Smithsonian Institution, I took an adult female *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, which was the first specimen I had ever seen alive. Upon examining the bird I found the lower breast and abdomen completely denuded of feathers showing that incubation was going on, but although we searched the swamp carefully for the nest we were unable to find it.

On May 12 I again visited the swamp, accompanied by a colored boy, and shot another female within one hundred yards of the spot where the first bird was taken. This bird had the lower breast and abdomen bare showing that it was incubating, and dissection proved, in both cases, that all the eggs had been laid.

Dr. Mearns accompanied me to the swamp on May 13 with the intention of hunting the greater portion of the forest critically for the nests, as well as to secure other birds of this species, but although we took two specimens of *C. americanus* we were unsuccessful in finding the other species, or its nest. The bodies of both specimens of *erythrophthalmus* are in the Smithsonian Institution, and the skins are in my collection.

Mr. Gilbert R. Rossignol, Jr., of Savannah, Georgia, writes me that Mr. F. N. Irving (also of Savannah) took a specimen of *C. erythrophthalmus* at Sand Island, Beaufort County, S. C., on April 23, 1911, which is now in my collection; also a specimen from Savannah taken April 9, 1911, by Mr. Rossignol, both of which he kindly presented to me. The capture of the two females of *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, by the writer near Mount Pleasant, makes the first authentic breeding record for the State.— ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) in San Juan County, Wash.—A typical specimen, an adult male, was taken Oct. 15, 1907, on Oreas Island, in San Juan County, Wash., one of the islands of the San Juan group in Puget Sound. It was brought me and the skin was forwarded to Washington, D. C., for further identification, and pronounced as above.—S. F. RATHBUN, *Seattle, Wash.*

Numbers of the Meadowlark still Increasing in Maine.—In this part of Maine, at least, there continues to be an increase in the numbers of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). On Oct. 12, 1910, I found near Winnoek's Neck, Scarborough, many more Meadowlarks than I had ever seen in one day before. Flock after flock was flushed, as I walked over the marshes, and there could not have been less than two hundred birds. This is a remarkable number in the case of a species which was uncommon a few years ago and was once a rarity.¹

About fifty Meadowlarks remained near Pine Point railroad station until late in November, 1910; but only about twenty passed the entire winter of 1910–1911 near here,—fewer than stayed through the previous winter.²—F. S. WALKER, *Pine Point, Maine.*

The English Sparrow at Tucson, Arizona.—The popular side of bird life is to anathematize the so-called English Sparrow. If it has a known virtue it is kept sedulously in the background, but inasmuch as the complaint is general it is barely possible that they are entitled to the total sum of badness heaped against them, but the rule is rare that has no exception. The English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) was first noticed in Tucson about seven or eight years ago. But where they came from, and how they came the writer does not know, but he does know that they did not come in from the west. They breed continuously from early spring to late midsummer. March 23 the writer saw young birds as large as their parents and to the writer's knowledge they are still (July 12) breeding. Nest-making appears to be going on much of the time, both male and females being engaged in the work, but the number of times they breed the writer has no means of knowing. One curious phase of the business is their scarcity in winter. In summer they are so numerous as to be seldom out of sight, but in the winter a drive over the town will not discover a half dozen. In Tucson it rarely snows, but if such thing should happen it instantly melts on touching the ground. Occasionally when a cold wind blows from the mountains freezing point will be reached, but seldom more. Cold weather can therefore be no motive for their scarcity. It is possible they scatter over the desert, but I am much in the country and do not often see them. April 16 last, the writer saw one, a male, at Oracle, a small town in the western foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains,

¹ Norton, Auk, XXVI, pp. 307, 308.

² Auk, XXVII, p. 341.